

logical and suggestive sense, would have been a well rewarded placebo.

E. A. V.

Diseases of the Heart and Aorta. By A. D. Hirschfelder, M. D., Associate in Medicine Johns Hopkins University. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. Price \$6.00.

It is particularly gratifying to receive another edition of this important book. The first edition became so well known and was found so useful by practitioners, students, and laboratory workers that it is hardly necessary to describe the second edition more than to say that it shows evidences of having been thoroughly gone over and amplified in accordance with the latest additions to this field of knowledge. For example, there is a concise but complete and extremely lucid description of electrocardiography, including the underlying physics, the physiology and the applications; the modern more exact indications for digitalis medication; the use of oxygen, carbon dioxide, rarefied air, etc. Few books on special subjects enter fields where there is more new but scattered knowledge which needs to be brought together, and still fewer books do this so clearly and concisely and with so much authority. Bibliographies are given. Illustrations are plentiful and mostly original. Throughout the volume shows evidences of an enormous amount of painstaking work, and it forms one of the most valuable volumes on a reference shelf.

E. S. K.

Solidified Carbon-Dioxide. By Ralph Bernstein, M. D. Published by Betz, Hammond, Ind., 1912.

In this little book Dr. Bernstein has presented the subject of the utilization of carbon-dioxide snow in dermatological conditions in an interesting and comprehensive form. The author is to be congratulated on the admirable results he has obtained by the use of the remedy. The résumé of the factors concerned in the utilization of the carbon-dioxide are comprehensively explained and the description of the method of preparation is concise and complete. Dr. Bernstein has obtained remarkable results in the treatment of epitheliomata but I believe a more safe and rapid measure could be found in the use of the high-frequency spark.

The end results in the treatment of angiomas are satisfactory, but in most instances the rapidity of the cure could be enhanced and the inconvenience to the patient minimized by prolonging each application of the snow.

The temporary freezing produced by carbon-dioxide has little, if any, bactericidal action and, therefore, would theoretically be of little value in the treatment of carbuncles, which Dr. Bernstein advocates. The freezing lowers the resistance of the tissues and in the presence of bacteria offers an admirable field for infection. In the treatment of this class of cases it would seem that the Bier hyperemic treatment would yield better results. The satisfactory results produced by the use of carbon-dioxide in the treatment of keloid, leucoplakia, lupus erythematosus, nevus lipomatodes, lupus vulgaris and xanthoma tuberosum would warrant us in considering this the elective procedure in these conditions. In the treatment of verruca vulgaris more rapid and equally satisfactory results can be obtained by the use of high-frequency or electrolysis.

Dorland's American Illustrated Medical Dictionary.

A new and complete dictionary of terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Biology, and kindred branches; with new and elaborate tables. Sixth Revised Edition. Ed-

ited by W. A. Newman Dorland, M. D. Large octavo of 936 pages, with 323 illustrations, 119 in colors. Containing over 7,000 more terms than the previous edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1911. Flexible leather, \$4.50 net; thumb indexed, \$5.00 net.

Dorland's American Illustrated Medical Dictionary needs no introduction to the American profession. It is neat, well illustrated, concise in its definitions, and contains all the terms one is likely to meet in a life-time. The fact that over seven thousand new terms have been added is assurance that it is keeping abreast of the times.

Handbook of Diseases of the Rectum. By Louis J. Hirschman, M. D. Second edition, 338 pages. Royal octavo, 172 illustrations, including four colored plates. Price \$4.00.

This is the second edition of Hirschman's work, the first having appeared four years ago. It is a work written for the general practitioner who so often is unfamiliar with the special methods of examination and treatment of rectal conditions, and who frequently treats patients of this type without much satisfaction to them or to himself. Symptoms, methods of examination and office treatment are especially considered. The chapter on constipation with its excellent radiographic illustrations is clearly written and should be helpful to the average practitioner. The author advocates the use of albolene, and curiously enough, although there is added a chapter on stool analysis based on the work of Schmidt and Strassburger, no mention is made of regulin (agar agar and cascara) introduced by Ad. Schmidt, nor of oil enemas introduced by Kussmaul and Fleiner and so frequently used by the gastro-entologist.

R. B.

Sexual Impotence. By Victor G. Vecki, M. D., Consulting Genito-Urinary Surgeon to the Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco. Fourth edition, enlarged. 12mo of 394 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1912. Cloth, \$2.25 net.

No subject in the whole realm of medical science requires for its authoritative discussion such a wide personal experience as sexual impotence. The correct interpretation of an underlying organic or functional lesion of the sexual sphere is only possible on the basis of a thorough knowledge of the border-line conditions (neurological, urological, etc.). Considering, furthermore, the many divergent opinions regarding the efficacy of the various therapeutic measures advocated for the relief of sexual impotence, a somewhat rational treatment seems to be feasible only at the hands of an experienced and well-trained observer, like the author of this admirable book. Refreshing is the open, candid and fearless manner in which he deals with his delicate subject, the mere mention of which is more or less abhorred in a country still saturated with insular prudishness and bigotry. Characteristic in this respect is the introductory sentence: "No one denies that the sexual function is of very great consequence to the individual as well as to society in general, although one does not care to make this a subject of conversation."

Vecki's book does not represent a compilation of the work and views of others, it gives, on the contrary, an independent view of the question of sexual impotence from his own standpoint, which, in many instances, is entirely original. The great value of the book, in other words, lies in the fact, that it contains the author's personal observations and views on this intricate subject, which he offers in his own inimitable and tem-

peramental way. This factor, while not detracting from the scientific value of the book, differentiates it favorably from the many dry treatises of similar nature.

After a brief review of the anatomy of the sexual organs, the second chapter is devoted to the physiology of the sexual act, containing many valuable new facts and the author's personal observations upon the microscopic aspect of the sperm and its main constituent, the spermatozoa. More than half the book's space is devoted to the fourth chapter dealing with the various forms of impotence, while in the remaining chapters its diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment are discussed. This rather dogmatical division of the material does not permit of a good survey of the whole subject nor of quick information upon a point in question and would certainly be benefited by some change or modification in future editions.

While speaking of changes, the hope is expressed that a number of orthographic errors will be revised in the future, which are particularly glaring in names of distinguished foreign authorities (Albaran, Lohenstein, Ultzman, etc., instead of Albaran, Lohnstein, Ultzmann). Almost unpardonable in a book written by a graduate of a German-speaking university is the misspelling of the discoverer of water-Endoscopy, who instead of the good German Goldschmidt is persistently dubbed "Goldsmith."

Against these few minor discrepancies, most probably due to a mere oversight, figure the many and notable merits of the book. The author's views on important questions like sexual excesses, onanism, deficiency or correct guidance as regard sexual life, etc., are sane and moderate. His knowledge upon aphrodisiacs testifies of large experience and sound criticism. Statements like "the further we advance in the study of the deep urethra and the pathology of the various sexual appendages, the less frequently we see cases of genuine sexual neurasthenia," and "there are so many phenomena of sexual neurasthenia that one life is too short for the study and observation of them all," prove his good judgment and unusually wide experience and will be corroborated by every co-worker in this delicate and difficult work.

In harmony with the author's genial temperament a certain buoyancy and optimism pervades the book that communicates itself to the reader; it is interesting, attractive and instructive from cover to cover; it should be found in the library of every practitioner who wishes to be informed upon the pathology and rational treatment of sexual impotence.

M. K.

NO MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

The Homeopathic Medical Society meeting at Los Angeles made complaint that the state legislature had been dominated by a rival school of medicine. The reference of course was to the medical practice act. This is the complaint always made against any medical practice act which treats medicine as a science, rather than as a religion, but it seems somewhat curious to hear it from homeopaths. The medical practice act of California does not require any homeopath to take examinations in homeopathy, or any "allopath" (if there is any such thing), to take examinations in "allopathy," or in fact, any medical practitioner to take an examination in any subject on which there is any difference between schools. The regular physician may give one grain or one-tenth of a grain of calomel and the homeopathic physician may give one hundred

thousand trillionth of a grain of the same substance, but the medical examination of California does not test either of them on either of these methods. What it does require is that both of them shall know enough chemistry to know what calomel is made of; shall know enough anatomy to know where it goes when it is swallowed; shall know enough physiology to know the functions of the organs through which it goes; and shall know enough pathology to know what is the difference between the functions of those organs when they are diseased and when they are in health. If they are also required to know something of bacteriology, that certainly is not inconsistent with the Hahnemann doctrine that all diseases are forms of the itch, for if that doctrine has any meaning at all it can only be interpreted in terms of modern bacteriology.

The whole purpose of modern medical requirements is simply to demand that those who wish to practice the healing art shall be sufficiently trained in the fundamental sciences. Homeopaths are so trained, and the graduates of their schools are able to pass an examination on these sciences. There is nothing in the medical practice act to interfere with an educated man of the homeopathic or any other school. The incidental fact that when physicians are educated they practice all very much the same sort of medicine, and that the schools disappear, is not the fault of the law, and is not regarded by any educated man as a fault.—Fresno Republican.

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NOTICE.

A recently published medical book, found on street car, has been left in the office of the State Journal. Owner may have same by proving property and paying for this ad.

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Tillotson, C. A., Dinuba, Cal.
 Burke, W. P., Redlands, Cal.
 McConnico, San Bernardino.
 Beeson, Henry O., San Bernardino.
 Axtell, S. B., San Diego.
 Ryan, L. R., San Diego.
 Marsh, O. G., San Diego.
 Weinberger, Joseph, San Diego.
 Crawford, W. W., San Diego.
 Coburn, E. S., National City, Cal.
 Ringolsky, Sol., San Francisco.

DEATHS.

Koenig, Theodore T., Portola, Cal. (Died in San Francisco).
 Wickman, W. J., San Rafael.
 Gosewisch, W. R., Los Angeles.
 Ladd, Ira Bourland (Died in San Francisco).